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Attorney Docket No. : 200309090-1

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Date of Deposit :	Name of Person Making the Deposit	Signature of the Person Making the Deposit
22 July 04	RAMONA J. ZAYA	

Inventor(s) : Wei Kwan NG
Chin Long WEE
Sanil Kumar PARAMMAL

Group Art Unit :

Serial No : 10/813,762

Examiner :

Filed : March 31, 2004

Title : Imaging Media Tray And Method

Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION TO SECURE FILING DATE AS OF MAILING DATE VIA EXPRESS MAIL

PETITION

1. Applicant petitions that this application be accorded the filing date on which the papers were sent "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" mailing label No. : EV207628095US on March 30, 2004. (Date)

SUBMISSIONS

2. Submitted herewith is :

- A copy of each page of the application showing the executed Express Mail certificate and mailing label number.
- A copy of the corresponding U.S. Post Office receipt establishing the deposit of the Express Mail on March 30, 2004. (Date)
- A copy of the receipt postcard received from the USPTO.
- A copy of the cancelled checks referring to the new application identified above.
- A copy of the attorney's Deposit Account Statement, in which the item (s) corresponding to the deposit of the application referred to above is checked.

08/02/2004 DTESEM1 00000004 082025 10813762

01 FC:1460 130.00 DA



Attorney Docket No. : 200309090-1

- A copy of attorney's mailing log showing the dispatch of the above identified application as Express Mail label No. _____ on _____ (Date)
- A copy of the Filing receipt received from the USPTO showing the incorrect Filing Date.
- A copy of the Application Transmittal showing the Certificate of Mailing executed on March 30, 2004.

PETITION FEE

3. The petition fee (37 C.F.R. 1.17(h) - \$130.00) is paid as follows :

- Check in the sum of \$130.00
- Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$130.00
 - to Deposit Account No. 08-2025
 - to Credit card as shown on the attached credit card information authorization form PTO-2038
- Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above.

A duplicate copy of this authorization is attached.

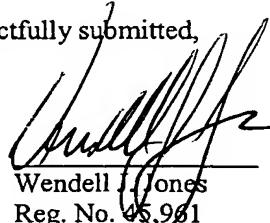
REQUEST FOR REFUND OF PETITION FEE

4. Because no defect exists in applicants' previous submission, a refund of the petition fee is respectfully requested, to be paid by

- a refund check
- a credit to the charge authorized above.

Please direct all correspondence concerning the above-identified application to the following address :

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

Respectfully submitted,
By : 
Wendell J. Jones
Reg. No. 45,981

Date : 22 July 04



Dear Sir:
Please acknowledge receipt of the following documents RE: US
Patent Application PD No.: 200309090-1 Atty: WJJ S/N
Unassigned

Inventor: *Wei Kwan NG et al*

Title: Imaging Media Tray and Method

Patent Application Transmittal Letter (in duplicate)
 10 Pages of Specification, Claims and Abstract
 20 Claims in Total 6 Sheets of drawings
 Declaration and Power of Attorney (executed)
 Authorization to Charge (\$770.00) to Deposit Account
 08-2025
 Certificate of Express Mail dated 30 March 2004
 Label No.: EV207628095US

EV207628095US

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Patent Application Transmittal Letter

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 CFR 1.53(b) is a(n): Utility Design

original patent application,
 continuation-in-part application

INVENTOR(S): Wei Kwan NG et al

TITLE: Imaging Media Tray And Method

Enclosed are:

The Declaration and Power of Attorney. signed unsigned or partially signed
 6 sheets of drawings (one set) Associate Power of Attorney
 Form PTO-1449 Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449
 Priority document(s) (Other) (fee \$ _____)

CLAIMS AS FILED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY				
(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) TOTALS
TOTAL CLAIMS	20 — 20	0	X \$18	\$ 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	2 — 3	0	X \$86	\$ 0
ANY MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS	0		\$290	\$ 0
BASIC FEE: Design (\$340.00); Utility (\$770.00)				\$ 770
TOTAL FILING FEE				\$ 770
OTHER FEES				\$
TOTAL CHARGES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				\$ 770

Charge \$ 770 to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

"Express Mail" label no. EV207628095US
Date of Deposit 30 March 2004

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By

Typed Name: Ramona J. Zaya

Respectfully submitted,

Wei Kwan NG et al

By

Wendell J. Jones

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 45,961

Date: 30 Mar 04

Telephone No.: (650) 857-7453

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Patent Application Transmittal Letter



Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DUPLICATE

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 CFR 1.53(b) is a(n): Utility Design

original patent application,

continuation-in-part application

INVENTOR(S): Wei Kwan NG et al

TITLE: Imaging Media Tray And Method

Enclosed are:

The Declaration and Power of Attorney. signed unsigned or partially signed
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BASIC FEE: Design (\$340.00); Utility (\$770.00)				\$ 770
TOTAL FILING FEE				\$ 770
OTHER FEES				\$
TOTAL CHARGES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				\$ 770

Charge \$ 770 to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Typed Name: Ramona J. Zaya

Respectfully submitted,

Wei Kwan NG et al

By

Wendell J. Jones

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 45,961

Date: 30 MAR 04

Telephone No.: (650) 857-7453



IMAGING MEDIA TRAY AND METHOD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to loading imaging media in imaging systems such as printers. More particularly the present invention relates to an imaging media tray and a method of use thereof.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 An imaging system such as a printer typically includes an imaging media tray comprising a chassis and a cassette which holds the imaging media such as a stack of paper. To assist transmission of the media from the cassette to the printer, a rear wall of the cassette may be formed with a sloping rather than 15 a straight or perpendicular surface. This allows a simplified transmission mechanism to be used comprising a single roller to push the media back against the sloping surface which then deflects the media up the wall and into the printer. Loading of the imaging media into the media tray is accomplished by removing the cassette from the chassis. After the imaging media is placed 20 into the cassette, the cassette is slotted back into the chassis. When this action is performed rapidly there is a tendency to "slam" the cassette into the chassis. Due to the sloping rear surface and the inertia of the media especially when the cassette is inserted with too much force, there is a tendency for the media to ride up the sloping surface giving rise to jamming of the media during 25 transmission thereof to the printer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

30 An object of the present invention is to provide a blocking apparatus that prevents the media from moving up the slope even when a cassette is inserted above a certain force.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided an imaging media tray for an imaging system, said media tray including a media

cassette having a sloping end wall, and a blocking means having a blocking mode adapted to prevent imaging media from moving up said sloping end wall at least when said media cassette is being inserted into said imaging system, and an inactive mode to facilitate transmission of said media to said imaging system, wherein said blocking means adopts said inactive mode after said media cassette is inserted into said imaging system.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided in an imaging media tray including a media cassette having a sloping end wall, a method for preventing imaging media from moving up said sloping end wall at least when said media cassette is being inserted into an imaging system, said method including the steps of:

providing a blocking means having a blocking mode and an inactive mode;

15 setting said blocking means to said blocking mode at least when said media cassette is being inserted into said imaging system; and

setting said blocking means to said inactive mode after said media cassette is inserted into said imaging system to facilitate transmission of said media to said imaging system.

20 These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will no doubt become obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art after having read the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment as illustrated in the drawing figures.

25 DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of a media tray including a chassis and 30 cassette;

FIG. 2 shows a prior art tray body with the chassis removed;

FIG. 3 shows the tray body of FIG. 2 with the chassis inserted;

FIG. 4 shows a perspective view of a blocking mechanism according to the present invention;

FIGS. 5A and 5B show side and rear perspective views respectively of the blocking mechanism in an unloaded position;

FIGS. 6A and 6B show side and rear perspective views respectively of the blocking mechanism in a loaded blocking position;

5 FIGS. 7A and 7B show side and rear perspective views respectively of the blocking mechanism in a loaded inactive position;

FIG. 8 shows a chassis incorporating a blocking mechanism according to the present invention in a position corresponding to FIGS. 5A and 5B;

10 FIG. 9 shows a chassis incorporating a blocking mechanism according to the present invention in a position corresponding to FIGS. 6A and 6B; and

FIG. 10 shows a chassis incorporating a blocking mechanism according to the present invention in a position corresponding to FIGS. 7A and 7B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

15

FIG. 1 shows a media tray 10 for an imaging system such as an inkjet printer, including a tray body 11, a cassette 12 and a chassis 13. Cassette 12 is adapted to hold imaging media such as a stack of paper. The media (paper) is transferred from cassette 12 to the associated printer via a transmission 20 mechanism associated with chassis 13. The transmission mechanism typically includes means for lifting the media above the rear wall of the cassette 12 to facilitate transfer of the media from the cassette 12 to the printer. The lifting means is required to lift the media above the straight perpendicular rear wall that would otherwise obstruct the paper path.

25

To simplify the transmission mechanism and avoid using a lifting means, the cassette 12 includes a backwardly sloping rear wall 80 (refer Fig.8). A sloping rear wall allows a relatively simple transmission mechanism to be used wherein the mechanism includes a single roller, to push the media back against the 30 sloping rear wall 80 which subsequently deflects the media up the rear wall 80 and into the printer. When cassette 12 is inserted into chassis 13 above a certain force there is a tendency due to inertia, for the media to move up the sloping rear wall 80. This can cause the media to jam during transmission thereof to the associated printer.

In an embodiment a blocking mechanism may be fitted to tray body 11 for increasing the probability of correct transmission of imaging media. Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of the blocking mechanism 40. The blocking mechanism 40 includes a blocking door 41 pivotably mounted on a base 42. A pair of blocking elements 43, 44 is formed with or mounted on door 41. Blocking elements 43, 44 include blocking faces 45, 46 respectively. Door 41 pivots between a blocking position in which blocking faces 45, 46 project beyond the sloping rear wall 80 such that they are substantially normal to the floor 81 of cassette 12, and an inactive position in which blocking faces 45, 46 are substantially parallel, flush or recessed with respect to the sloping rear wall 80 of cassette 12.

The blocking mechanism 40 contains a trigger device including a retainer element 47 that is adapted to translate back and forth along a direction in which cassette 12 is inserted into chassis 13. Retainer element 47 includes a rib 48 at one end and a riser 49 at the other. When cassette 12 is inserted into chassis 13, it makes contact with rib 48 causing retainer element 47 to translate rearwardly relative to base 42. One end of a resilient element such as spring 50 is fixed to riser 49. The other end of spring 50 is fixed to a projection 51 on blocking door 41.

Blocking door 41 is mounted on base 42 such that it is biased to the blocking position at least when cassette 12 is being inserted into chassis 13. This is done by locating pivot axis 52 relative to the centre of mass of door 41 including blocking elements 43, 44, such that the weight of door 41 causes a rotating torque (anticlockwise in Figs. 5A, 6A) that biases the door 41 to the blocking position. The pivot axis 52 is also positioned such that a force applied to blocking face 45, 46 substantially normally, such as by the media stack moving under inertia when cassette 12 is inserted into chassis 13, does not give rise to any appreciable rotating torque (clockwise in Figs. 5A, 6A) that would dislodge it from the blocking position.

After a user places media into cassette 12 and slots it into chassis 13, a leading edge of cassette 12 contacts rib 48 and pushes it back along the media path. Even if cassette 12 is inserted above a certain force the media stack contacts the projecting perpendicular surfaces of blocking faces 45, 46 and is 5 prevented from moving beyond blocking faces 45, 46. In this way the stack of media is effectively prevented from riding up sloping rear wall 80.

Meanwhile movement of rib 48 from the start position shown in FIG. 5A to the end of travel position shown in FIG. 6A causes retainer element 47 to be 10 pushed to the end as well. This causes riser 49 to move to the position shown in Figs. 6A and 6B and spring 50 to be elongated. Elongation of spring 50 exerts a pulling force on the blocking door 41 via projection 51 that overcomes frictional forces and its weight bias, and causes blocking door 41 to rotate to the inactive position shown in Figs. 7A and 7B. The frictional forces and elongation 15 of spring 50 act as a delay mechanism that delays rotation of the blocking door to the inactive position. This is exactly what is required to perform the blocking function and then a falling behind the sloping rear wall 80 of cassette 12 to clear a path for the media to move up into the associated printer.

20 Following loading of cassette 12 into chassis 13, the degree of delay prior to rotation of blocking door 41 to the inactive position may be adjusted by changing spring 50 to one having a heavier or lighter modulus of elasticity, and/or by applying dampening grease (Nye PG - 44A Extra Heavy) to moving parts of the blocking mechanism to damp the falling action of blocking door 41 25 to the inactive position. If the steps triggering the falling action of blocking door 41 are allowed to happen too fast, the blocking faces 45, 46 may actually move to the recessed position before they have a chance to block the media.

30 Although the present invention has been described in terms of the presently preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the disclosure is not to be interpreted as limiting. Various alterations and modifications will no doubt become apparent to those skilled in the art after having read the above disclosure. Accordingly, it is intended that the appended claims be interpreted

as covering all alterations and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

1 CLAIMS

2

3 1. An imaging media tray for an imaging system, said media tray including a
4 media cassette having a sloping end wall, and a blocking means having a
5 blocking mode adapted to prevent imaging media from moving up said sloping
6 end wall at least when said media cassette is being inserted into said imaging
7 system, and an inactive mode to facilitate transmission of said media to said
8 imaging system, wherein said blocking means adopts said inactive mode after
9 said media cassette is inserted into said imaging system.

10

11 2. An imaging media tray according to claim 1 wherein said blocking means
12 includes at least one blocking element movable between blocking and inactive
13 positions.

14

15 3. An imaging media tray according to claim 2 wherein said at least one
16 blocking element is biased to said blocking position at least when said media
17 cassette is being inserted into said imaging system.

18

19 4. An imaging media tray according to claim 3 wherein said at least one
20 blocking element is mounted on a base such that the weight of said blocking
21 element biases said blocking element to said blocking position.

22

23 5. An imaging media tray according to claim 2 including means for moving
24 said at least one blocking element to said inactive position in response to said
25 media cassette being inserted into said imaging system.

26

27 6. An imaging media tray according to claim 2 wherein said at least one
28 blocking element includes a blocking face that in said blocking position projects
29 beyond said sloping end wall and in said inactive position does not project
30 beyond said sloping end wall.

31

32 7. An imaging media tray according to claim 6 wherein in said blocking
33 position said blocking face extends substantially normal to a floor of said media
34 cassette.

1 8. An imaging media tray according to claim 5 wherein said means for
2 moving said at least one blocking element to said inactive position includes a
3 retainer element movable between start and end positions.

4

5 9. An imaging media tray according to claim 8 wherein said retainer
6 element includes a rib for abutting a leading edge of said media cassette when
7 the latter is inserted into said imaging system.

8

9 10. An imaging media tray according to claim 8 wherein said retainer
10 element includes a riser at one end thereof and wherein one end of a resilient
11 element is connected to said riser and the other end of said resilient element is
12 connected to said at least one blocking element.

13

14 11. In an imaging media tray including a media cassette having a sloping
15 end wall, a method for preventing imaging media from moving up said sloping
16 end wall at least when said media cassette is being inserted into an imaging
17 system, said method including the steps of:

18 providing a blocking means having a blocking mode and an inactive
19 mode;

20 setting said blocking means to said blocking mode at least when said
21 media cassette is being inserted into said imaging system; and

22 setting said blocking means to said inactive mode after said media
23 cassette is inserted into said imaging system to facilitate transmission of said
24 media to said imaging system.

25

26 12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said blocking means includes at
27 least one blocking element movable between blocking and inactive positions.

28

29 13. A method according to claim 12 including biasing said at least one
30 blocking element to said blocking position at least when said media cassette is
31 being inserted into said imaging system.

32

1 14. A method according to claim 13 including mounting said blocking
2 element on a base such that the weight of said blocking element biases said
3 blocking element to said blocking position.

4

5 15. A method according to claim 12 including moving said at least one
6 blocking element to said inactive position in response to said media cassette
7 being inserted into said imaging system.

8

9 16. A method according to claim 12 wherein said at least one blocking
10 element includes a blocking face that in said blocking position projects beyond
11 said sloping end wall and in said inactive position does not project beyond said
12 sloping end wall.

13

14 17. A method according to claim 16 wherein in said blocking position said
15 blocking face extends substantially normal to a floor of said media cassette.

16

17 18. A method according to claim 15 wherein moving said at least one
18 blocking element to said inactive position includes moving a retainer element
19 between start and end positions.

20

21 19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said retainer element includes a
22 rib for abutting a leading edge of said media cassette when the latter is inserted
23 into said imaging system.

24

25 20. A method according to claim 18 wherein said retainer element includes a
26 riser at one end thereof and wherein one end of a resilient element is connected
27 to said riser and the other end of said resilient element is connected to said at
28 least one blocking element.

IMAGING MEDIA TRAY AND METHODABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5

An imaging media tray for an imaging system such as a printer is provided that includes a media cassette having a sloping end wall, and a blocking means. The blocking means has a blocking mode adapted to prevent imaging media from moving up the sloping end wall when the media cassette is being inserted 10 into the imaging system and an inactive mode to facilitate transmission of the media to the imaging system. The blocking means adopts the inactive mode after the media cassette is inserted into the imaging system. A method for preventing imaging media from moving up the sloping end wall when the media cassette is being inserted into the imaging system is also disclosed.

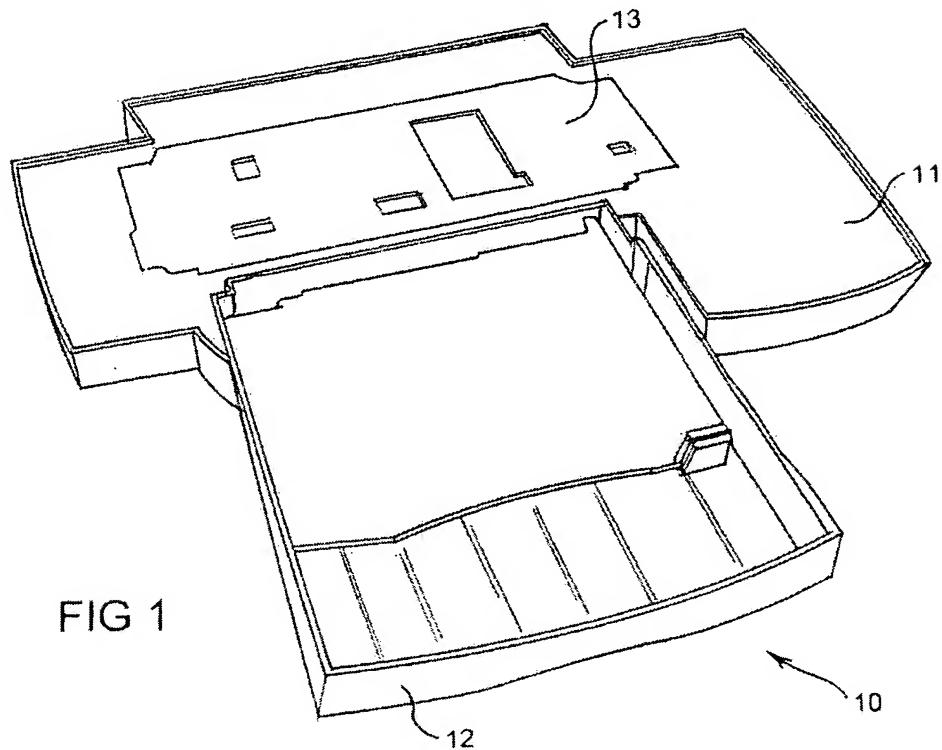


FIG 1

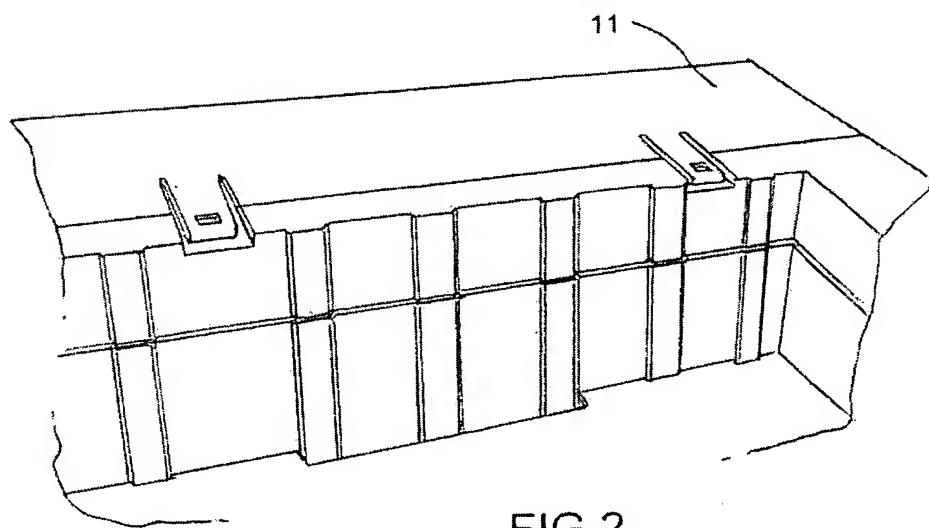


FIG 2
(PRIOR ART)

TITLE: Imaging Media Tray And Method

INVENTOR(S): Wei Kwan NG et al.

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2/6

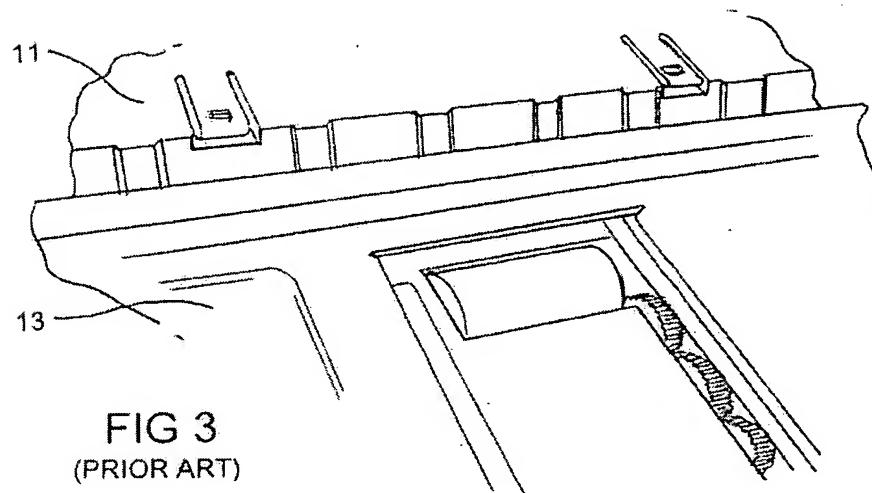


FIG 3
(PRIOR ART)

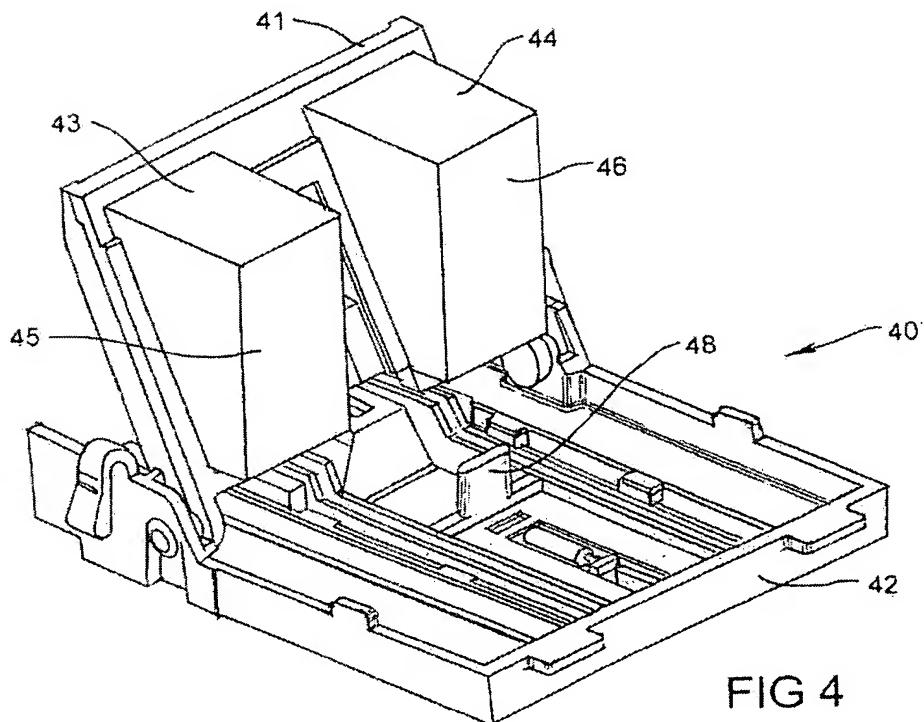


FIG 4



TITLE: Imaging Media Tray And Method
INVENTOR(S): Wei Kwan NG et al.
HP PDNO. 200309090-1

3/6

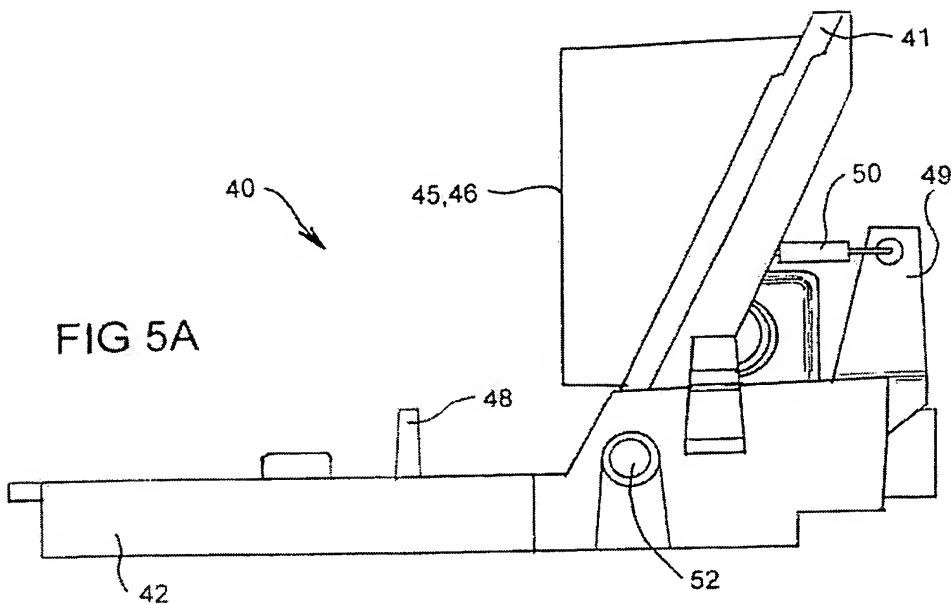


FIG 5A

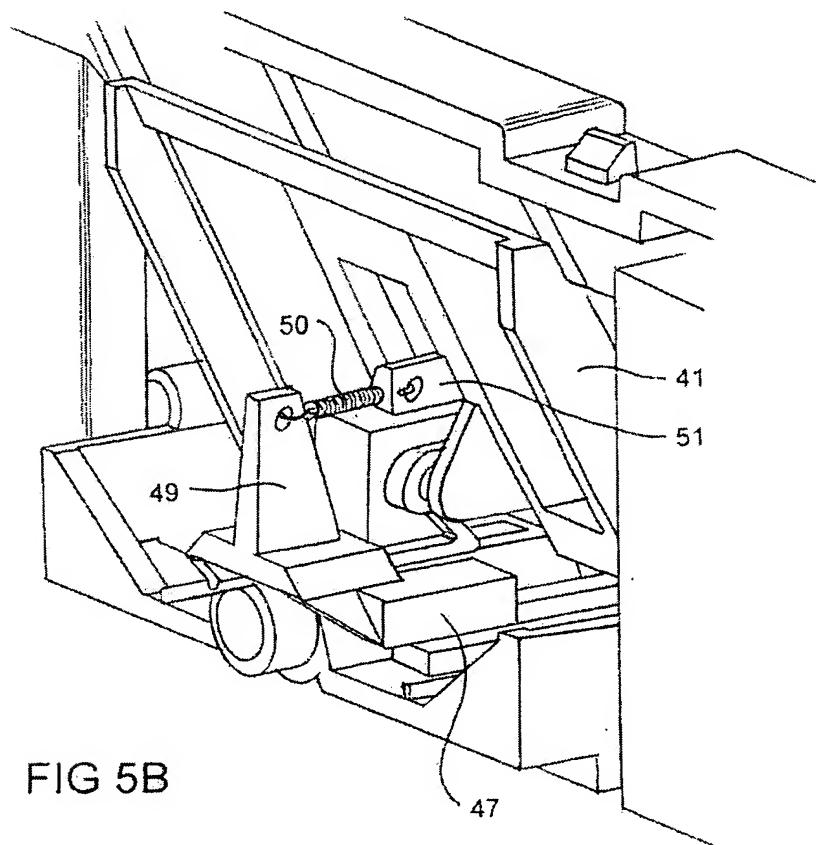


FIG 5B



TITLE: Imaging Media Tray And Method

INVENTOR(S): Wei Kwan NG et al.

HP PDNO. 200309090-1

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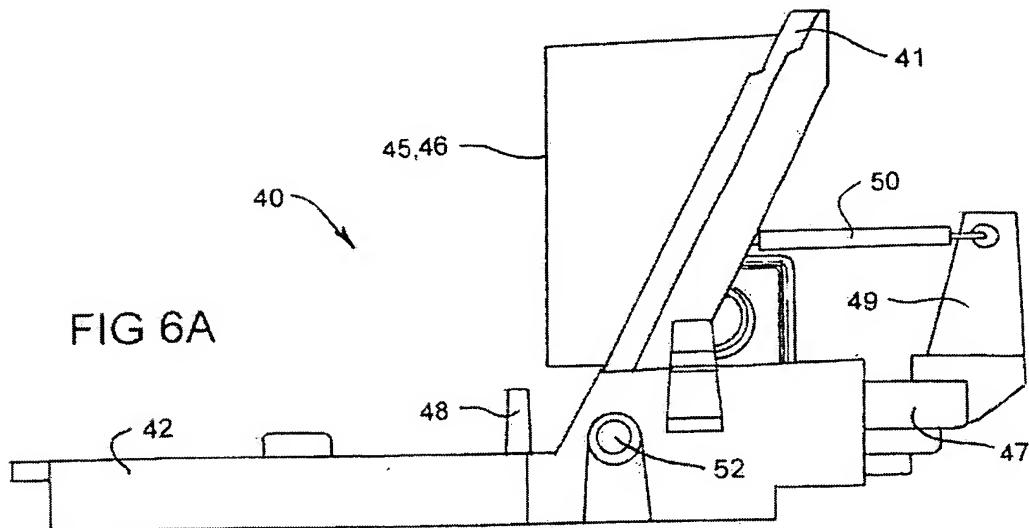


FIG 6A

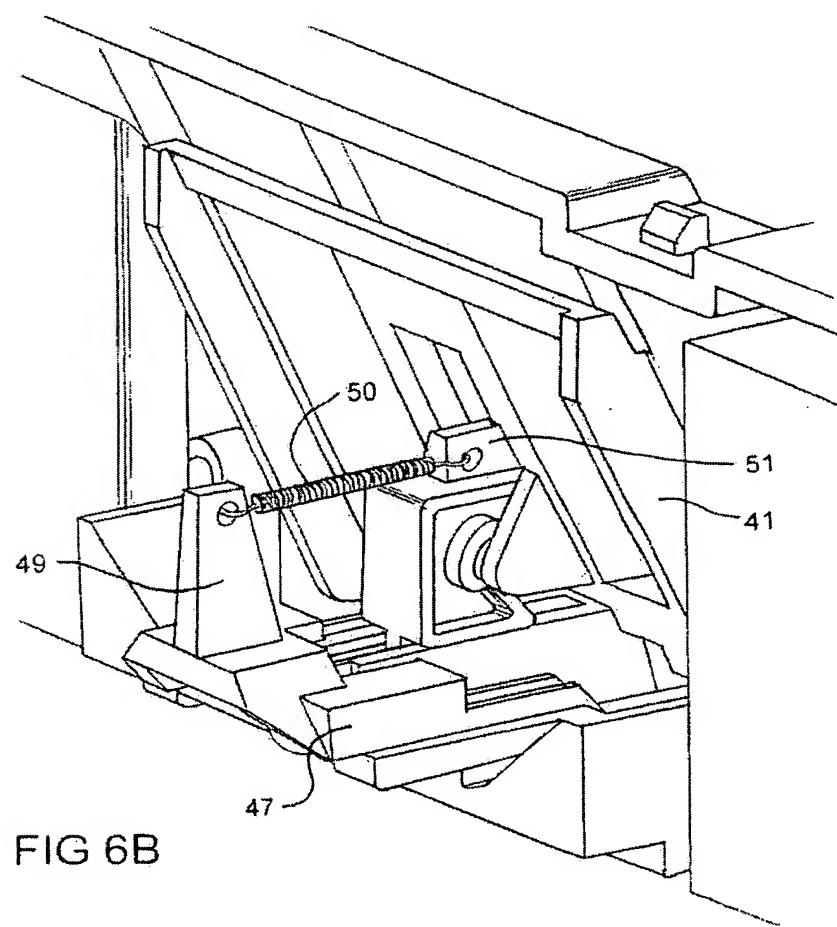


FIG 6B



TITLE: Imaging Media Tray And Method

INVENTOR(S): Wei Kwan NG et al.

HP PDNO. 200309090-1

5/6

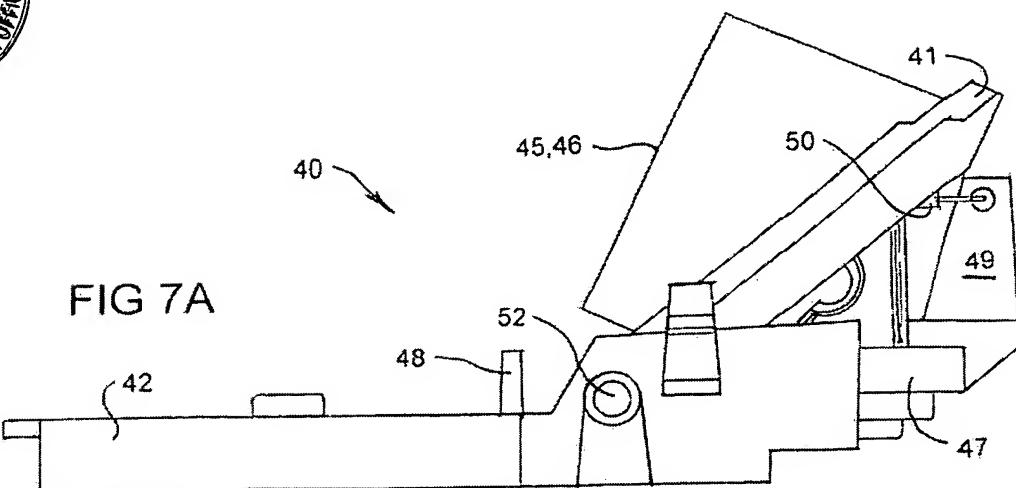


FIG 7A

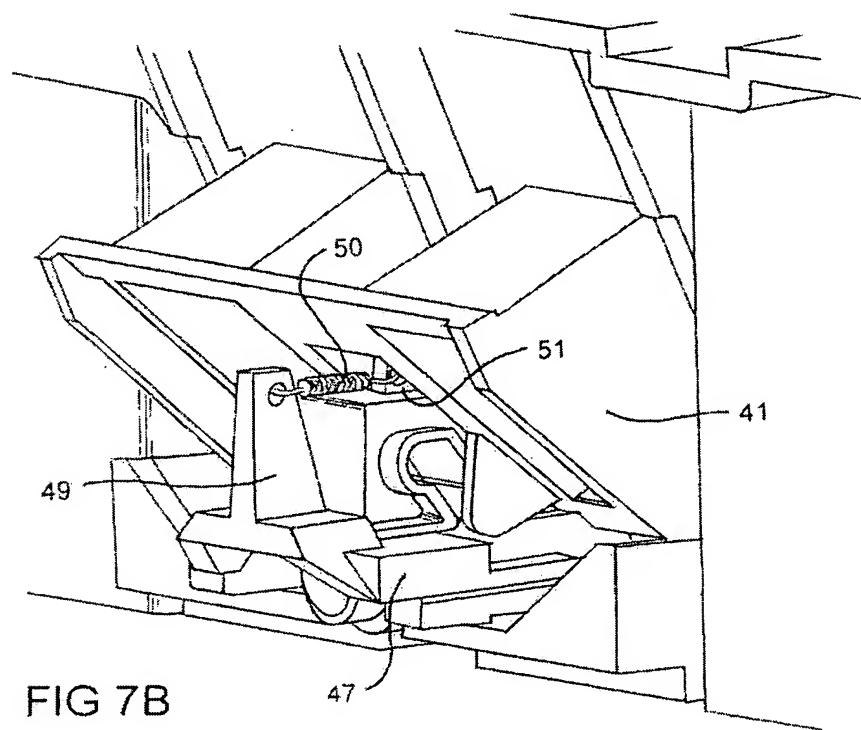


FIG 7B



TITLE: Imaging Media Tray And Method
INVENTOR(S): Wei Kwan NG et al.
HP PDNO. 200309090-1

6/6

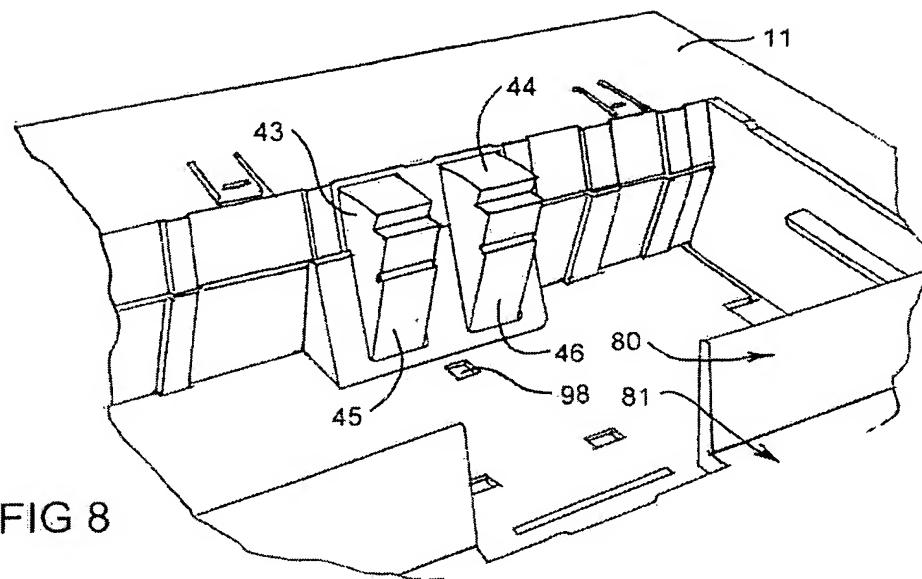


FIG 8

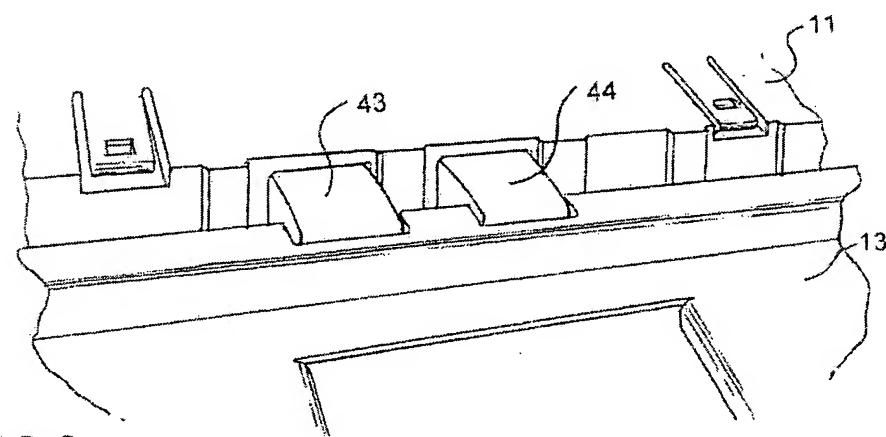


FIG 9

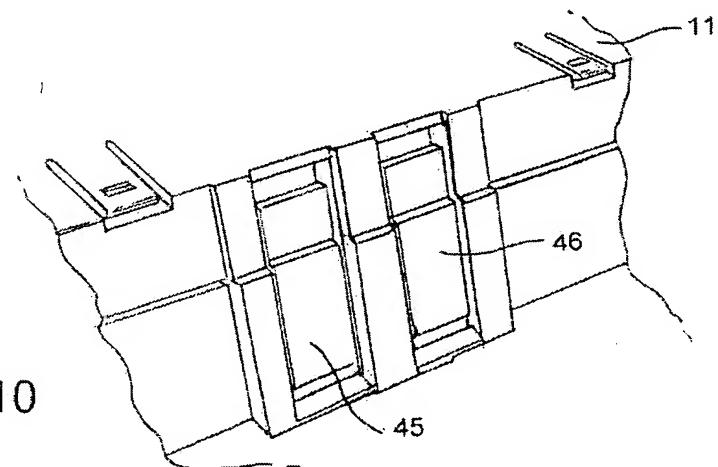


FIG 10

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 200309090-1

I, the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence/post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name:

JUL 30 2004 I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Imaging Media Tray And Method

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

() was filed on _____ as US Application No. or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

Foreign Application(s) and/or Claim of Foreign Priority

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor(s) certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor(s) certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
			YES: _____ NO: _____
			YES: _____ NO: _____

Provisional Application

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE

U. S. Priority Claim

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (patented/pending/abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY:

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Customer Number 022879

Place Customer
Number Bar Code
Label hereSend Correspondence to:
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

Direct Telephone Calls To:

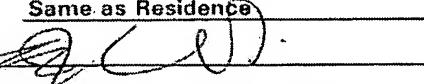
Wendell J. Jones
(650) 857-7453

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Inventor: Wei Kwan NG Citizenship: MY

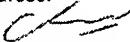
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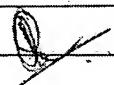
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Inventor's Signature  Date 12 Mar 2004

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FOR PATENT APPLICATION (continued)**

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 200309090-1

Full Name of joint Inventor: Chin Long WEE Citizenship: SG
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Inventor's Signature 
Date 12 Mar '04

Full Name of joint Inventor: Sanil Kumar PARAMMAL Citizenship: IN
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Date 12 - 03 - 2004

Full Name of joint inventor: _____ Citizenship: _____
Residence: _____
Post Office Address: _____
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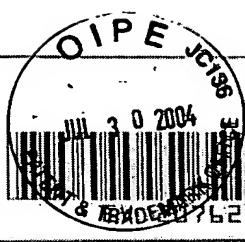
Inventor: *Wei-Kwän NG et al*

Title: Imaging Media Tray and Method

- Patent Application Transmittal Letter (in duplicate)
- 10 Pages of Specification, Claims and Abstract
- 20 Claims in Total 6 Sheets of drawings
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